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Hits 1-1 of 1

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[Back to Brief Results](#)[Back to Search](#)[Exit JFK](#)

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

DECLASSIFIED BY 5668 SLD/KSE
ON 8-31-95 (JFK)

Tolson ✓
Belmont ✓
Mohr ✓
Casper ✓
Callahan ✓
Conrad ✓
DeLoach ✓
Evans ✓
Gale ✓
Rosen ✓
Sullivan ✓
Tavel ✓
Trotter ✓
Tele. Room ✓
Holmes ✓
Gandy ✓

TO: Mr. A. H. Belmont

DATE: January 30, 1964

FROM: Mr. W. C. Sullivan

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. J. P. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Callahan
- 1 - Mr. W. C. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Branigan
- 1 - Mr. Baumgardner
- 1 - Mr. D. J. Brennan

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
IS - R - CUBA

Classified by *See page 1*
Declassify on: OADR
Exempt from GDS Category 2
Date of Declassification Indefinite

SYNOPSIS

Purpose of memorandum is to explore allegation Lee Harvey Oswald was FBI informant and related points covered by President's Commission last week during appearance before Commission of Henry Wade, District Attorney of Dallas County, Texas, and to set forth pursuant to Director's request (1) procedures we use in development and control of FBI informants, (2) the system used in handling informants in Special Intelligence Service (SIS) program, and (3) details concerning Wade's SIS service while in the FBI.

Contrary to testimony, Oswald was never FBI informant, was never paid money for information and was never assigned any symbol number. Procedures we use in informant program preclude the possibility of Oswald's connection with FBI as an informant without knowledge of Seat of Government.

We closely supervise all aspects of informant program. Field offices cannot develop security informants without Bureau authorization, which is based on exhaustive background investigation to determine reliability, trustworthiness and stability.

When we do authorize, we follow informant's development through progress letters which field offices submit at four-month intervals.

We approve use of symbols and code names, maintain an index of these and none may be used twice by the same field office.

We authorize payments on regular basis and maintain current records of every expenditure made showing to whom made and why.

SAC has only limited authority to make payments without Bureau authority in certain instances and we control this by limiting amount, and by end-of-month accounting procedure which lists all such payments, to whom made, and for what purpose.

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
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FEB 25 1964

Confidential

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64-4104-
64-4123-
62-109090

Just what is language of this "limited authority"
all paragraphs unclassified unless otherwise marked
53 FEB 28 1964
53 FEB 28 1964
Page 2

Memorandum Mr. W. C. Sullivan
to Mr. A. H. Belmont
RE: LEE HARVEY OSWALD

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Absence of Payments to Oswald

Had any of our offices even made payments to him under the SAC's authority, these would have been shown in the receipts and vouchers submitted by each office. These records have been checked and double checked and no such payment was ever made.

Symbol Numbers Identifiable

Had Oswald been assigned a symbol number, this would be a matter of record not only by number but also by name. As a matter of fact, we can identify every symbol number used, past or present. The number 179 supposedly assigned Oswald is currently used by the Dallas Office for a criminal informant, Velma Yvonne Graham, a Negro madam who runs a house of prostitution. In New Orleans, where Oswald spent some time, the number 179 was used by the New Orleans Office back in 1941 to designate an informant, Joseph A. Partridge, who was reporting security information and who was discontinued in 1944. As previously noted, once a number is used in any capacity, whether to designate a security or a criminal informant, it cannot be used by the field office again. In Mexico, to which Oswald traveled just prior to the assassination of President Kennedy, our Legal Attache there currently has a security informant 179 who was so designated in 1960. He is Ignacio Olivo, who furnishes information on the Mexican-Russian Institute of Cultural Exchange in Morelia, Michoacan, Mexico. ~~(S)~~(u)

Procedural Steps Never Taken

Furthermore, Oswald could not have been assigned such a symbol number without a prior background investigation by any field office considering him for development. Had any field office considered developing him, it would have had to obtain approval by the SOG. There is no record of any such request by any field office and no record of any such approval.